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Yelawolf Says Eminem Made Him 'Super Nervous'

By MTV News Staff

By Alvin Blanco

Alabama rapper Yelawolf just got a turbo boost to his career thanks to signing with Eminem's Shady Records. The move was announced on Wednesday (January 12) when XXL Magazine revealed its March 2011 cover which features Eminem in front of his latest musical acquisitions, Slaughterhouse (Joel Ortiz, Joe Budden, Royce 5' 9," Crooked I) and Yelawolf.

"I met with Eminem about four to five months ago in Detroit," Yelawolf told Vibe.com. "Paul [Rosenberg] and Em flew me and my manager out to just kick it and get acquainted. From that meeting, I had no idea it would turn into this situation. I remember Paul was asking me about the meth problem in Alabama and I told him that I wrote 'Pop The Trunk' based off that issue. Next thing I know, Em starts rapping some of my lines from the song. I can't even describe how that felt, I actually got super nervous."

Yelawolf had already been making large strides in hip-hop before the Eminem co-sign.

In 2010, the MC's mixtape, Trunk Muzik, made it onto plenty of well respected year-end lists while he also made a scene stealing turn on BET's The Cypher and held his own on "You Ain't No DJ" from Outkast rapper Big Boi's acclaimed album Sir Lucious Leftfoot: The Son of Chico Dusty. According to Yelawolf, the possibility of going from an underground sensation to a commercially viable artist was always part of his plan.

"A lot of rappers have this obsession with staying underground, but I want to take it to the stadium level," the Southern rapper said. "We've been sitting on records for like four years that we knew were too big for a mixtape. So I'm just focused on writing a great album right now."

Yelawolf's formal debut album, Radioactive, is due later this year.

What do you think of Yelawolf joining Eminem's Shady Records? Tweet us at @MTVRapFix or tell us in a comment below!